



Media release

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Success in strategic growth sector: SIG wins Vitana – a leading Eastern European manufacturer of food products – as a customer.

The expansion in the segment ‘Aseptic Carton Packaging for Soups and Sauces’ as announced by SIG last November is under way. SIG has recently succeeded in winning a major new customer based in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia. Vitana is the market leader in the dried foods sector (including convenience foods, instant products and sauces) and launches ready-made soups and pasta sauces in carton packaging on the market from summer 2006. Through this collaboration with Vitana, and fully in line with the group’s strategic orientation, the SIG Combibloc division is continuing to expand in the segment of carton packaging for food products in the important Eastern European market.

In acquiring Vitana as a new customer, SIG Combibloc has reached a further milestone in expanding the segment ‘Aseptic Carton Packaging for Soups and Sauces’. In November 2005, SIG announced that, in addition to emphasizing market expansion outside Europe, it would strengthen its position in the segment of carton packages for food products.

Vitana, which became part of the Scandinavian group of Rieber & Søn in 1992, has been on the lookout for a new product and packaging concept to take account of both changing consumer eating habits and increasing consumer demand for added convenience. The result: liquid, ready-made vegetable soups and pasta sauces packaged in aseptic cartons. There were two influential factors in the choice of carton packaging: on the one hand, carton packaging is considered to be a mark of healthy, top-quality products in the Czech Republic and Slovakia; while on the other, SIG Combibloc offers many years of experience in UHT processing and filling technology for chunky food products.



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Forward-looking collaboration

The development of this joint project is proving to be a forward-looking collaboration for both companies and promises further successes in the market. Should the project meet with a positive consumer response, Rieber & Søn will consider an implementation of the concept in other European markets. The Czech Republic and Slovakia are therefore to be regarded as test markets in the first instance.

For Rolf-Dieter Rademacher, CEO of SIG, this is a confirmation of the group's overall strategy to develop the carton packaging for food products into the second mainstay of the division SIG Combibloc: "In the coming years we intend to aggressively market our proven technology in the segment for aseptically packaged food products such as soups and sauces, a market estimated at around EUR 4 billion. With Vitana, we have reached a further milestone". As well as continuing to develop the business for aseptically packaged foodstuffs, this year SIG has also launched its first pilot for the non-aseptic filling of food products in cartons. This procedure is suitable for "extra chunky" food products such as fruit and vegetables. The size of this market is estimated to be around EUR 11 billion.

Vitana

Founded in 1920 under its former name of Graf, producing soup seasonings and other flavorings, Vitana was renamed at the end of the 1950s and was taken over by the Scandinavian group Rieber & Søn in 1992. With a market share of over 50%, Vitana is the market leader for dried and instant soups in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia.

Headquartered in Prague, the company has more than 1,000 employees and has a turnover of over EUR 80 million. For Vitana, the collaboration with SIG is an equally important step. For the first time, the company will be producing liquid ready-made soups and sauces.

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SIG is a global provider of packaging solutions. Its product range includes the manufacture of cartons for beverages and food products, as well as machinery for the aseptic and non-aseptic filling of packages (SIG Combibloc division). In the PET sector, equipment for the production, coating and filling of plastic bottles completes the product spectrum (SIG Beverages division). In 2005, the approximately 4,800 employees generated annual net sales (continuing business) of EUR 1.2 billion. The company has its registered office in Neuhausen am Rheinfall (Switzerland) and the SIG share is listed on the Swiss Exchange SWX (SIGN, security no. 1202249).

Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements

This communication contains statements that constitute "forward-looking statements". In this communication, such forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements relating to our financial condition, results of operations and business and certain of our strategic plans and objectives. Because these forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual future results may differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the statements. Many of these risks and uncertainties relate to factors which are beyond SIG's ability to control or estimate precisely, such as future market conditions, currency fluctuations, the behavior of other market participants, the actions of governmental regulators and other risk factors detailed in SIG's past and future filings and reports filed with the SWX Swiss Exchange and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and posted on our websites. Readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only of the date of this communication. SIG disclaims any intention or obligation to update and revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.